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PHOSPHORUS DEADLY TO WATERFOWL
TO BE REMOVED AT ABERDEEN, MD.

Plans are under way for removing a menace to waterfowl in the large quantities of phosphorus that have been lying on the bottom of waters contiguous to the Aberdeen Proving Ground at the head of Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. The poison menace has resulted in the death of thousands of ducks in the last ten years, according to an announcement by Paul G. Redington, Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey. The canvasback, which is perhaps the most highly prized of all waterfowl and a species that has been reduced seriously in recent years, has suffered from the poison more than other varieties of game birds. Bombing tests conducted by the War Department ten years ago scattered the deadly chemical over 10 or 12 acres of the feeding ground of the birds.

The removal of the phosphorus will be accomplished as a result of dredging operations made necessary in the extension of the air field at the Proving Ground. This is one of the War Department projects recently approved by the Public Works Administration. Funds have already been allotted, and it is expected that operations will start soon. Although the removal of this phosphorus has received the joint consideration of the War and Agriculture Departments, the work will be under direct supervision of the War Department.

Announcement of the approval of the project will be a source of gratification to sportsmen and conservationists, as the menace of phosphorus poisoning will now be removed from the waterfowl using this favorite feeding and resting ground. These birds are protected by international treaty, as most of them breed in Canada and winter in the United States.

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